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**Governor Baker Nominates Michael D. Vhay to Massachusetts Land Court**

**BOSTON** – Today, Governor Charlie Baker nominated attorney Michael Vhay, a longtime litigator based in Milton, to the Land Court Department of the Massachusetts Trial Court. The Land Court is the Commonwealth’s adjudicating body on matters involving real estate property registration, foreclosure, taxation and decisions by local planning and zoning boards of appeal.

“Over the last twenty-eight years, Michael Vhay has worked on a wide variety of civil matters, including zoning, land use, environmental, energy, and affordable housing,” **said Governor Charlie Baker**. “I am pleased to nominate him to the Land Court and if confirmed, I am confident that he will serve the Commonwealth well.”

“Mr. Vhay will be a welcomed member of the Land Court, if confirmed,” **said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito**. “The quality of his legal work, impressive organizational skills and good temperament will be an important addition to the bench and I thank the Governor’s Council for their consideration.”

The Land Court Department has seven authorized judicial positions and statewide jurisdiction over the registration of title to real property, and foreclosure and redemption of real estate tax liens. The Court shares jurisdiction over matters arising out of decisions by local planning boards and zoning boards of appeal, and over most property matters. The Court also has superintendence authority over the registered

land offices in each Registry of Deeds.

For more information on the Land Court please visit:

<http://www.mass.gov/courts/court-info/trial-court/lc/>

Judicial nominations are subject to the advice and consent of the Governor's Council. Applicants for judicial openings are reviewed by the Judicial Nominating Commission (JNC) and recommended to the governor. Governor Baker established the JNC in February, 2015 pursuant to Executive Order 558, a non-partisan, non-political Commission composed of volunteers from a cross-section of the Commonwealth's diverse population to screen judicial applications. Twenty-one members were later appointed to the JNC in April, 2015.

#### **About Michael D. Vhay**

Michael D. Vhay has practiced as a Shareholder at Ferriter, Scobbo & Rodophele, PC since 2013 where he currently concentrates on matters of zoning, land use, environmental, energy, and affordable housing litigation. Mr. Vhay began his career as a Law Clerk in the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois in 1988. He went on to become Associate Counsel for the Office of Independent Counsel – Iran/Contra examining U.S. intelligence agency roles in Washington, D.C. from 1990 to 1993. Mr. Vhay then went on to work for Hill & Barlow, PC, as an Associate in the Litigation Department where he concentrated on matters of labor, employment, zoning, land use, and energy. Mr. Vhay was promoted to Senior Counsel in 1999 and then Partner in 2001. In 2003, Mr. Vhay became Partner at DLA Piper LLP where he worked for ten years, concentrating in zoning, land use, environmental, and class-action matters. He received his A.B. in History at Harvard College in 1983, and went on to earn his J.D. at University of Chicago Law School in 1988. Mr. Vhay is Troop Committee Chairman for Boy Scouts USA Troop 3 of Milton where he resides.

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